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SENATE BILL 2694
By Herron

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 71, relative to
TennCare eligibility for certain dislocated workers.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 71-5-106, is amended by adding the
following as a new subsection to be appropriately designated:

() (1) Subject to the provisions of any applicable federal waiver or the approval of
a modification of such a waiver:

(A) A dislocated worker shall be eligible for TennCare before the
expiration of the eighteen (18) month period authorized for continuing insurance
coverage under COBRA as required by Section 71-5-135, if continuing such
insurance coverage would be a financial hardship for the worker or the worker's
family. For the purposes of this subsection, "dislocated worker" means an
eligible dislocated worker as defined in the federal "Economic Dislocation and
Worker Adjustment Assistance Act", 29 U.S.C. Section 1651(a)(1), whose
employment has been terminated through no fault of his or her own and whose
household income does not exceed two hundred percent (200%) of the federal
poverty level.

(2) Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, a dislocated
worker shall be eligible for medical assistance under TennCare even if the employer
remains in business with a reduced number of employees.

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(3) If necessary to implement the provisions of this subsection, the commissioner of health is directed to apply for a modification of the TennCare waiver to extend eligibility to such dislocated workers on or before July 1, 1998.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect on becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.